

**Amendments to the Specification**

- 1) Please insert the following subtitle at page 1, below the title:  
**Background**
- 2) Please insert the following subtitle at page 3, line 12:  
**Summary**
- 3) Please delete the text beginning at page 4, line 11 and ending at page 5, line 3.
- 4) Please insert the following subtitle and text at page 4, line 11:  
**Brief Description of the Drawings**

For a further understanding of the nature and objects for the present invention, reference should be made to the following detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are given the same or analogous reference numbers and wherein:

- Figure 1 illustrates two common connections employing a support strip;
- Figure 2 illustrates a schematic view of a connection at the ends of a pipe, as according to one embodiment of the current invention;
- Figure 3 illustrates a schematic view of one embodiment of a junction piece, according to one embodiment of the current invention;
- Figure 4 illustrates another view of the embodiment shown in Figure 2;
- Figure 5 illustrates a schematic view of a junction piece, according to one embodiment of the current invention;
- Figure 6 illustrates another schematic view of a junction piece, according to one embodiment of the current invention;
- Figure 7 illustrates another schematic view of a junction piece, according to another embodiment of the current invention;
- Figure 8 illustrates a view of a common weld; and
- Figure 9 illustrates a view of a weld incorporating an aluminized layer produced according to one embodiment of the current invention.

- 5) Please insert the following subtitle after the above-inserted paragraphs:  
**Description of Preferred Embodiments**

6) Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 11, with the following:

In figure Figure 2, the two ends 1-A and 1-B of a pipe 1 are shown, a piece constituting the equipment whose inner surface has been treated by aluminization. The aluminization coating 2 is shown in all of figures Figures 1 to 7 by a thick hatched line adjacent to the thin hatched lines line showing the surface of the piece.

7) Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 22 with the following:

The junction piece 3 is bonded to the end 1-A of the tube pipe 1. The connection is made by fitting the end of the junction piece inside the tube pipe 1. The two pieces are then welded on the outside of the assembly formed in this way, in the space made for this purpose. The inner surface of the junction piece 3 and the part of this same piece 3 designed to be fitted inside the tube pipe 1 are covered by aluminization. Thus there is continuity of the quality of the surface finish. The weld joint 5 is made on the outer surface of the pieces. Thus this weld in no way affects the surface finish of the inner surfaces of the pieces which will be subject to corrosion.

8) Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 36 with the following:

Similarly, the junction piece 4 is bonded to the end 1-B of the tube pipe 1. Whatever the slightly different shapes on their outer surfaces, the ends of the pieces 3 and 4 both reproduce the main characteristics of the invention. Thus the piece 4 is protected by a surface treatment over at least the part of its surface which will be subjected to corrosion and the weld forming the junction between the pieces 1, at 1-B and 4, are located on the outer surface of the pieces.

9) Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 7, with the following:

Figure 3 shows a junction piece according to the invention having at least one end identical to that of the junction piece 3 of figure Figure 2. Thus, said piece is of the type with a constant inner diameter, while its outer diameter has a given restriction d at its ends, over a length l such that it can be matched to the end of the piece which must be connected thereto. Furthermore, a chamfer is made at the outer diameter restriction, which chamfer will then be positioned facing the

chamfer compatible with the other piece to be bonded, during connection, such that these two chamfers denoting a V-shaped groove on the periphery of the bonded assembly are capable of receiving added material intended to form the weld joint. When the piece is small, it is easy to completely aluminize it, as shown in figure Figure 3.

10) Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 8, with the following:

Figure 5 reproduces the piece 7 of figure Figure 4, which is completely aluminized, and one of the ends of which will operate in a region of the plant where the temperature is less than the temperature at which the metal dusting phenomenon appears; since it is not subjected to the risk of corrosion, it is not required to comply with the characteristics of the invention at this end.

11) Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 17, with the following:

Figure 6 reproduces the completely aluminized piece 6 of figure Figure 4, with a restriction in inner diameter. It is capable of operating under metal dusting corrosion conditions over its entire length.

12) Please insert the following paragraph at page 9, line 40:

It will be understood that many additional changes in the details, materials, steps and arrangement of parts, which have been herein described in order to explain the nature of the invention, may be made by those skilled in the art within the principle and scope of the invention as expressed in the appended claims. Thus, the present invention is not intended to be limited to the specific embodiments in the examples given above.

13) Please replace the subtitle at page 10, line 1, with the following text:

Claims What is claimed is:

14) Please delete the 11<sup>th</sup> page in its entirety.